

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL**NOTICE OF PROPOSED REVISION TO THE
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING****Synopsis:**

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (Department) is proposing to revise the South Carolina State Implementation Plan also referred to as the SIP. The proposed revision is being conducted in accordance with our commitments under the Early Action Compact (EAC) process. The EAC process is an alternative to traditional nonattainment planning that allows local areas flexibility to control air emissions from their sources and offers a means to achieve cleaner air sooner than the Clean Air Act requires. In December 2002, the Department entered in compacts with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and local governments for the purpose of developing ozone reduction strategies as part of the EAC process. The compacts require EAC areas to attain the 8-hour ozone standard by December 31, 2007, a date that is sooner than would otherwise be required through the traditional nonattainment designation process. The compacts include all necessary elements of a comprehensive air quality plan, but are tailored to local needs. As a result of an area's participation, the EAC process calls for EPA to recognize the area's commitment to early action by provisionally deferring the effective date of the nonattainment designation.

The EAC process sets forth a series of rolling deferrals that are contingent upon the participating area's meeting all terms and milestones of the compact. On April 30, 2004 (69 FR 23857), following the completion of the first set of milestones, EPA promulgated the first deferrals of the effective date of the nonattainment designations for eligible EAC areas. In accordance with the EAC process, participating EAC areas must submit a final EAC SIP by December 31, 2004, consisting of local plans, including all adopted control measures, and a demonstration that the areas will attain the 8-hour ozone standard by December 31, 2007. The Department is proposing to amend the SIP in accordance with this requirement.

Public Hearing:

Staff of the Department will conduct a public hearing to receive public comments on the proposed revision of the SIP on November 22, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 2280 of the Aycock Building, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC. Interested members of the public are invited to attend and comment on the proposed revisions. Interested persons may also submit comments in writing to Heather Preston at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Bureau of Air Quality, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201. To be considered, comments must be received by November 22, 2004, the close of the comment period.

Copies of the proposed SIP revision for public notice and comment will be available at the public hearing. Copies may also be obtained by contacting Heather Preston at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Bureau of Air Quality, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201, or by calling (803) 898-4287.